

**From:** John Johnston  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/27/02 1:59am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear DOJ,

The only actions that I have seen that are harming the consumer is the government attempt to create alternatives for the consumer. A computer operating system is not like our highway system. Our cars operate just fine regardless of the road construction, asphalt, cement, gravel, dirt and so on. There was more diversity in rail lines, the spacing of the tracks was different at times. The rail cars and equipment designed for one gauge of road did not work on others.

The comparison between rail lines is much more akin to attempts to engineer compatible software operating systems or features by different companies. IBM attempted to make their OS2 compatible with programs wrote to run on MS Windows. It didn't work, if they couldn't do it, who is going to? Sun Microsystems JAVA is likewise not doing what Sun said it would. According to SUN a software designer could write it once and it would run anywhere. Maybe the ridiculously simple things will, but any meaningful productivity applet still needs to be "tweaked" and then it might not achieve cross platform ability.

Our country will be better off, and our consumers will be better off with one basic operating system vendor than with the market being split between three.

The biggest cry of foul comes from Microsoft's competitors who have had the privilege of over charging business users but are now seeing their revenues crash since they have to compete with equally or more capable software from Microsoft.

This kaleidoscope of lawsuits from the DOJ and nineteen states and now other companies and foreign countries is only going to hurt the consumer and probably the United States.

Sincerely,

John Johnston